AN

ACCOUNT

OF THE

CONFESSION

OF

VVilliam Lord Ruſſel,

With the manner of his Behaviour in Priſon, and the Chriſtian Speeches he made at the Place of

EXECUTION

IN

Lincoln's-Inn Fields,

Where he was Beheaded for

High-Treaſon,

Againſt His MAJESTY.

On Saturday the 21ſt. of July, 1683.

Licenſed and Entred, according to Order.

THE continual diſcoveries of Horrid Plots is enough to diſcourage Malignant Spirits from their Progreſs in Iniquity, till Divine Juſtice makes a ſeizure of their offending faculties; nor will the ever-ſeeing Eye of Heaven wink at ſuch Enormities, as we too often are made acquainted with; how doth dayly and wofull experience tell us the dangers and difficulties of Conſpiracy! yet, notwithſtanding, ſuch

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is the impudence of some dissatisfied persons, that they neither can, nor will, desist from seeking their own ruines, by contriving their own overthrow. Treason, above all things, in the eye of God and Man, is most detestable; and as seldome goes unrequited, as any transgression whatsoever; but such a vain thing is man, that the hopes of advancement, and the self-promise of honour corrupts the mind, and debauches the senses of too many in our Age: And some (never satisfied with the Blessings of the Almighty) aspire to that heigth, which in the conclusion meets with the greatest fall; as you may observe by these subsequent Lines:

It is not long since my Lord *Russel* had the repute of a noble, brave, and generous Gentleman, whose deportment (before this snare he was drawn into was by all commended; no Gentleman could have a better report than this unfortunate Lord, now as much decry'd by his fatall concern. But yet, as he hath been an Offender against his most gracious Majesty, by the subtile insinuation of long-headed States-men, so we hope that his sincere Penitence may procure his Pardon in the Court of Heaven.

AFter the Tryals of *Mr. Walcot*, *Mr. Rouse*, and *Hone*, was Arraigned the Lord *Russel*; who desired longer time, in order, to prepare for his Trval, but it was not allowed of by the Court: then he excepted against the Jurors, as supposing them not to be Free-holders, Inhabiting within the City of *London*, and therefore desired counsel to be assigned him, to debate it as matter of Law, which was accordingly granted him; and Mr. *Holt*, *Mr. Poluxphen*, and *Mr. Ward* were allowed him as counsel to debate the matter, whose opinions, after many arguments between the King's Councel and them, they were over-ruled by by the Court; whereupon the Jury was called over, and the Prisoner challenged about thirty of them, but at last twelve of them were sworn, and the Indictment read, the substance were to this effect: That *William*

Russel

Russel Esq; (For so he was then stiled) together with *James* Duke of *Monmouth*, *Ford* Lord *Gray*, Sir *Thomas Armstrong*, and one *Ferguson*, and others, had conspired to Levy War and Rebellion in the Kingdom of *England*, to compass the death of *His Majesty*, and to make a miserable slaughter amongst the Subjects of our Lord the King, &c.

To this Indictment He having Pleaded not Guilty, Mr. *North* opened the matter of Fact, and was seconded by Mr. *Attorney General*, who at large declared the Hainousness of the Crime, which in Evidence, was to be given against the Noble Lord the Prisoner at the Bar, which was also insisted upon by Mr. *Solicitor General*. After which, Coll. *Rumsey* was Sworn, who deposed, That the Duke of *Monmouth*, the Lord *Russel*, Sir *Tho Armstrong*, and divers others, being at one Mr. *Shepherds* a Vintener, in the Parish of St. *Nicholas Bushaw*, he was sent to them by the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, to know what forwardness they were in, as to an Insurrection, to which he received answer, that Mr. *Trenchard* who had promised to raise 1000 Foot and 4000 Horse, to be aiding in the Design, had certified them by a Letter, that he could not so soon effect it as was required; for that the persons he desired to allure to his interest, would not rush upon a Design e're they had provided for their Families, and that the Harbour *Shaftsbury* must be contented, at which the Earl seemed much disaffected. He further deposed, that divers Consults had been held, in order to the raising men in divers places, and that an Insurrection was to have been on the 19*th*. of *November*: and that he *viz*. Colonel *Rumsey* was to have been a Commander at *Bristol* & the Duke of *Monmouth*, *Grey*, & *Armstrong* of the *Muse* and *Savoy*.

This deposition made, the Lord Howard of Effrich was Sworn, Who declared the whole Conspiracy at large from time to time, how the Plot was carryed on by the Earl of Shaftsbury in chief, and that he had declared his dissatisfaction in the coldness of the Duke of Monmouth & other Lords to join with him; and that he had 1000 Men in the City at his beck; and seeing things were so far advanced, he would cause the design to be put in Execution: and that divers Messages passed between the Earl and the Lords in relation to putting off the design longer; which at last was from time to time put off, till the Earl doubting his safety, fled into Holland, where he dyed; after which a Council of Six were constituted, who were the Duke of Monmouth, the Earl of Essex, the Lord Russel, the Lord Howard, (the now Witness,) Mr. Sidny, and Mr. Hambden, the younger, who were to determine all matters as to the Insurrection; and that they to his knowledge met at Hambden's House, and at the House of the Prisoner, to debate about carrying on the Design, and that Aaron Smith was sent into Scotland to persuade the Gentry to Rise there.

The next that gave Evidence was Mr. Shephard a Vintner, living in the Parish of St. Nicholas Bashaw, who deposed, That Mr. Ferguson came to him in the Name of the Duke of Monmouth, and also named several persons that were to come to his House; desiring a private Room, which they had accordingly; and that the Lord Russel was there: And that at that time a

discourse happned about an Insurrection, and a Declaration was read, in order to a Relation of the grievances of the Nation, tending to a Rising. &c.

During the time of his Imprisonment, since he was Sentenced to Death, he spent most part of his time in meditation and Prayer and other holy exercises, have had conference with several eminent Divines of the Church of *England*, in order to his preparation for Death and a happy Eternity, On *Friday* the day before his Execution, his Lady and his Children attended with several of his servants came to take their last farwel of him in prison, only his Lady (we are informed) stayed with him all night, to take part in the Agony of her beloved Lord in the last night of his being in this world, which was spent in Prayer and heavenly Conferences in order to his eternal state.

In this Heavenly manner did he prepare for his great change, and with a thousand reflections upon his late transactions past away the tedious night, till the dawning of the last day he was ever to see in this world: and then with a redoubled feryency he renewed his Divine Petitions, humbly beseeching his blessed Saviour to commiserate his distress, and take him into his everlasting favour, which is the only happiness that sinful man can desire to injoy: It was much to be taken notice of what suddain changes appeared in his countenance, when sometimes calling to mind his mispent time, he seemed to be cast dowu; and an a suddain was raised again at the thoughts and assurance of Christ's everlasting Love, on which he firmly grounded his never-failing hope.

On *Saturday* morning being the 21st. of *July*, he was conveyed in a coach accompanied with two Reverend Divines, Dr. *Tillotson*, and Dr. *Burnet*, from Captain *Richardson*'s House to *Lincolns-Inn Fields*, where there was a Scaffold built on purpose for his Execution, where, when he came, he behaved himself with so much civility in his deportment, that he moved the Spectators to great pitty, all lamenting his sad state, and grieving that he should be so strangely drawn in to this præminary: He took notice of the great Assembly that came there to behold that sad spectactle, which in a little time was to be presented to their watry eyes; every particular person as much applauding his Behaviour as condemning his evil Conspiracy, which for all I can hear was the onely Crime that ever he was known to be guilty of in so gross a nature. After a fine Oration made to the people, the particulars whereof we cannot, as yet, give you a Just Account of, by reason of the multitude of sorrowful Spectators that hindred the hearing of what was said, but after some conference with two Reverend Divines, he made Preparation for the other World, and so went to Prayer, beseeching God in his great mercy and pitty to take him into his everlasting Kingdome; and having given some short Admonition to Loyalty, he freely submitted his Head to the Block, when the Executioner soon separated his Head from his Body, while his Soul, it is hoped, flew to eternal happiness.

Printed for J. *Coniers*.